

Comparison of Old and New Covenants

Feature	Old Covenant	New Covenant
When established	At Exodus	At crucifixion
Parties: God and	National Israel (Ex. 19-24)	Christians (Luke 22:20; John 3:16-21)
People redeemed from bondage	In Egypt (Ex. 20:2)	In sin (Heb. 9:15)
Mediator of the covenant	Moses (Ex. 20:18-19; Heb. 9:19-20)	Jesus Christ (Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:24)
Ratified by blood of	Animals (Ex. 24:8; Heb. 9:19-20)	Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:28; Rom 3:25)
Promises offered	Prosperity, national security, become God's treasured nation (Ex. 19:5; Lev. 26)	Eternal life (John 3:16), children of God (Rom. 8:14-17, 29), know God, law in heart, forgiveness (Heb. 8:10-12), with God forever (Rev. 21:3-7)
Initiation sign of the covenant	Circumcision (Gen. 17:11; Ex. 12:48-49; John 7:22-23)	Conversion of the heart (Matt. 5:8; Acts 15:8; Rom 2:28-29)
Continuing sign of the covenant	Observance of the Sabbaths (Ex. 31:16-17; Ezek. 20:12)	New life of faith in Christ (Eph. 2:4-10; 4:17; 5:1-2)
Obligations	Obedience to the law that was given through Moses (Ex. 24:3; Lev. 26; Deut. 28)	Trust (Matt. 5:48), believe, obey Christ (Gal. 6:2; 1 John 3:23-24; Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 10:5)
Duration of the covenant	During the time of national Israel, temple and Letes (Heb. 8:13)	Eternity (John 5:24; 6:54-58; Heb. 9:15; 12:22-28; Rev. 21:3-7)
Priesthood	Aaron and sons (Ex. 29:9; Lev. 8)	Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:14-16; 5:5-6), believers (1 Pet. 2:5, 9)

High priest entered presence of God	Symbolically once a year on the Day of Atonement after offering the required blood sacrifices (Lev. 16; Heb. 9:7)	Sat down at God's right hand forever, after offering his own blood for all (Heb. 7:20-8:2; 9:11-14)
Holy place where God can be worshiped	Tabernacle in Wilderness (Deut. 12), temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:29-30)	Temple of the Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16), wherever believers are (John 4:21-24; Matt. 18:20)
Commemorations	Weekly Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-11, Deut. 5:12-15) and seasonal festivals (Lev. 23)	Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:26-28)
Sacrifices	Continual offering of animals and food (Lev. 1-7; Heb. 10:1) as a reminder of sins (Heb. 10:30)	Christ's one sacrifice (Heb. 9:26-28; 10:12), forgave sins, perfects the worshipper, clears conscience (Heb. 8:12; 10:1-2, 22); Christian's life of service is to be a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1)
Law	Ten Commandments (Ex. 20; Deut 5) and 603 additional laws governing moral, civil and religious affairs, fulfilled by adherence to the letter of numerous rules (Ex., Lev., Deut.)	Sermon on the Mount reveals Christian attitude and way of thinking (Matt. 5-7), law of Christ fulfilled by loving God and humans (John 13:34-35; Rom. 3:8-10; Gal. 5:14; 6:2; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:7-10, 21-24)
Contrast	The letter kills (Rom. 4:14-15; 2 Cor. 3:6), slavery (Gal. 4:24-25; 5:1)	The Spirit gives life (John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6), freedom (Gal 4:26; 5:1)
Main feature	The law was a shadow of the good things to come (Heb. 10:1)	Jesus Christ, God in the flesh (Isa. 42:1-7; 49:5-13; Heb. 1; 9:11-15; 10:5-10)
Contact with God	Through priesthood (Lev. 1-7)	Individual comes to God's throne (Heb. 4:16)